

REMARKS

In the office action dated December 28, 2006, the examiner rejected claims 1-46 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Casement et al. USPN 5,969,748. Applicants have amended certain claims to correct typographical errors and to further clarify the claimed invention. In view of the foregoing amendments and subsequent remarks, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the examiner's rejections.

At page 5, the examiner asserts that Casement

compare[es] (RL 16-22 which inherently includes a Microprocessor 'MC', fig.3-4, col.4, line 25-col.5, line 17 and col.6, line 30-col.7, line 1 +) the finite time range with the reference time; allowing user review of the user discernible information without user input or comparison of received content-based indicator (Rating) with a content-based specification (User selected Rating) if the reference time is outside the first finite time range specification; note that the parent can block/unblock, lock/unlock or disable/enable, etc, programs as desired and MC generates blocking signal to block programs within a restricted time period(s), MC further automatically make available to the parent all programs after the restricted time period;

compare[es] (MC) the selected content-based specification with the received content based indicator when the reference time falls within the first finite time range specification and impairing (MC) the program signal if the received content-based indicator exceeds the content-based specification associated with the first time range specification (fig.3-4, col.3, lines 33-43, col.4, line 25-col.5, line 17 and col.6, line 30-col.7, line 1 +), note that a parent sets a first finite time range to access between 8:00PM to 10:00PM. The parent also selects a rating as PG-13, so that only program contents rated PG-13 can be selected within the time interval of 8:00PM-10:00PM. When a user selects a program at 9:00PM, by selecting any channel the system compares the content rating of the program of the EPG with the pre-set rating of PG-13 (see fig.4, steps 158, 160 and col.7, lines 6-10 where "time lock =blocked out time segments)

Figures 4 and column 6, line 30-column 7, line 20 of Casement, which illustrate and describe the operation of Casement's parental control feature, are reproduced below.

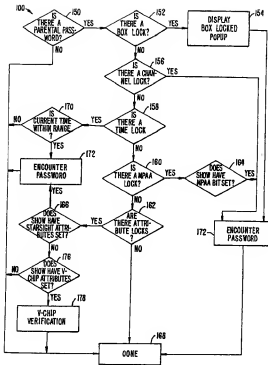


FIG. 4.

FIG. 4 illustrates a process flow chart for the operation of the parental control feature. When a user turns on the TV, or tunes to a program or channel, the system checks at step 150 whether a parental password is needed before the program(s) will be shown. If a parental password exists, a step 152 of the system checks whether a BOX lock has been set. **A BOX lock is essentially a special TIME lock as it keeps the TV locked for 24 hours a day, everyday.** If a BOX lock exists, step 154 displays a pop-up informing the viewer that a password is necessary before the viewer may watch TV, and a step 172 requests that the user enters the parental password. When the user supplies the correct password, the user may tune to the program, schedule an auto-tune, or schedule a recording of the program at step 168.

If a BOX lock has not been set, the system checks for channel locks at step 156. If none exists, a step 158 checks for a TIME lock. **If a TIME lock exists, a step 170 checks whether the current time is within the range of the restricted times. The user is asked to supply the parental password at step 172 if the user is trying to watch TV at a restricted time.** Similarly, if a channel lock exists, and the user is trying to tune to a locked channel, the user would be asked to supply the password at step 172. **If the user is watching TV at an unrestricted time, the user may proceed to step 168 and may tune to the program, record the program and the like.**

If no TIME lock has been set, a step 160 checks for a rating/MPAA lock, as

the ratings correspond to those set by Motion Pictures of America Association. If a rating lock has been set, a step 164 determines whether the program has a restricted rating. If so, the user is asked to supply the parental password at step 172. On the other hand, if there is no rating lock, a step 162 checks for a content/ATTRIBUTE lock. The system checks at step 166 whether the program contains restricted content, and if so, the user is asked to supply the parental password at step 172. A step 176 further checks whether the program has a V-chip classification if the program does not contain restricted content. If so, a step 178 (details shown in FIG. 7) determines whether the user is trying to gain access to a program with restricted V-chip classifications.

Col. 6, line 48 – Col. 7, line 20.

Applicants have carefully reviewed Casement, and in particular the figures and column and line citations that the examiner indicates supports this assertion, and particularly Figure 4 and its description reproduced herein. As clearly shown in Fig. 4 and explained in Col. 6, Casement parental control feature first checks whether there is a parental password (150), i.e., whether the parental control feature is on, and, if not, displays the broadcasted signal without any further checks or comparisons (168). If there is a parental password, it checks to see if there is a "box lock" (152) and, if there is, it displays a "box locked" pop up (154) and then requires a password (172) to view the TV at all. As Casement explains, the "box lock" is a 24 hour time lock which prevents viewing of the TV at anytime throughout the day without entry of a password. If there is no "box lock", it checks for a "channel lock" (156) and if a channel lock is present it then requires a password (172) to view the selected channel. If no channel lock is present, it checks for a "time lock" (158) and if a time lock is present it checks to see if the current time is within the specified time range (170). If it is not, the broadcast signal is displayed (168). If the current time is within the specified time range, then a password (172) is required to view any TV. Operation of Casement time lock feature is illustrated as Casement A in Chart A provided below.

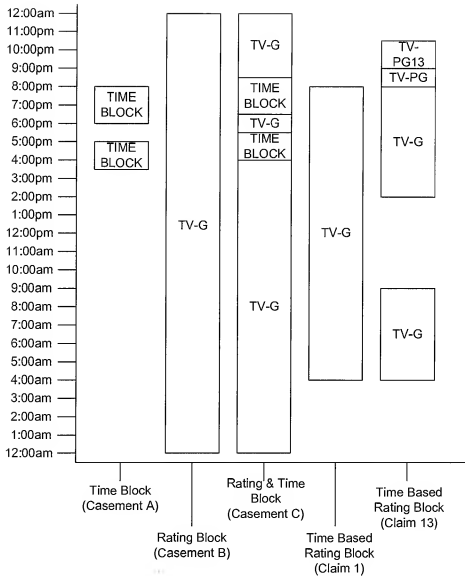


Chart A

If the time lock is on, there is no comparison of a content indicator, i.e., rating, with a content specification. As is clear from further review of Fig. 4, the time lock is completely separate from any content screening or comparison. With Casement, the user either blocks program viewing by time or blocks it by content, but as clearly indicated in Figure 4 and its description in Columns 6 and 7, Casement in no way describes the combined or simultaneous use of both time and content locks as indicated by a review of the flow chart in Figure 4 with regard to blocks 158, 170, 160

and 162. As noted above, Casement checks for a time lock at 158, if a time lock is present, it moves on to 170. As illustrated at Casement A, if the current time is with the specified time range, viewing is blocked unless a password is entered at 172. The flow chart in Figure 4 does not flow, i.e., there is no line extending from block 170 to block 160 or 162 if the current time is within the specified time range nor is there any description in Casement to the contrary. Only if the time lock is not present or turned on does the flow chart in Figure 4 move on to see if there is a content lock present – either an MPAA lock (160) or an attributes lock (162). Casement's content control operation is illustrated as Casement B in Chart A. As indicated, Casement's content control, if activated, is active for all time periods—continuous for twenty-four hours. Thus, Casement does not combine the comparison of time and content, and thus does not meet the noted limitation of claim 1-12 or similar limitations in independent Claims 13, 19 and 25.

Casement's Figure 4 and description thereof does not describe or suggest combining the comparison of time and content such that if the current time is within a specified time range it would check to see if the indicated content exceeded a content specification for that specified time range, it simply blocks all TV for the specified time period (Casement A). Casement simply does not teach or suggest specifying or selecting a content specification for a specified or selected time range. Casement's parental control feature only enables the separate time and content control depicted by Casement A and Casement B in Chart A above.

However, even if it could be argued that Casement teaches or suggests the use of time and content blocking together, it does so only to the extent depicted by Casement C in Chart A, wherein if the reference time falls within the specified time period, all TV viewing is blocked for the specified time period as indicated by the "Time Block" designation. If the reference time falls outside the specified time period, TV viewing is blocked if the indicated rating of the content

exceeds the specified content rating as indicated by the "TV-G" designation in Casement C. Thus, there is no time period in which the broadcast signal as converted to user discernible content is viewed without comparison to a specified content rating if the reference time falls outside the specified time period. Thus, Casement does not and can not teach, describe or suggest

- allowing user review of user discernible information without user input or comparison of received content-based indicator with a content-based specification if the reference time is outside the first finite time range specification;

- comparing the selected content-based specification with the received content-based indicator when the reference time falls within the first finite time range specification; and

- impairing the program signal if the received content-based indicator exceeds the content-based specification associated with the first finite time range specification when the reference time falls within the first finite time range specification.

as claimed in claim 1 or

- allowing user review of user discernible information without user input or comparison of the received content-based indicator with a content-based specification if the reference time is outside the one or more finite time range specifications;

- comparing the received content-based rating when the reference time falls within one of the one or more finite time range specifications with the content-based specification associated with the one of the one or more finite time range specifications; and

- impairing the program signal if the received content-based rating exceeds the content-based rating associated with the one of the one or more finite time range specifications.

as claimed in claim 13. The difference between what claims 1 and 13 claim and what is taught, described or suggested by Casement also is graphically illustrated in Chart A. As depicted in Chart A in regard to claim 1, if the reference time is outside the specified finite time range of 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., there is no comparison to a specified content rating for blocking of TV viewing and TV viewing is enabled without input from user. If, however, the reference time falls within the specified finite time range of 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., there is comparison to a specified content rating, e.g., TV-G, and blocking of TV viewing if the indicated content rating of the broadcast

signal exceeds the specified content rating.

Similarly in regard to claim 13, if the reference time is outside the one or more specified finite time ranges of 4 a.m. to 9 a.m., 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., and 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. there is no comparison to a specified content rating for blocking of TV viewing. If, however, the reference time falls within one of the one or more specified finite time ranges, there is comparison to a specified content rating associated with the specified finite time range, i.e., TV-G for 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., TV-PG for 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., and TV-PG13 for 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and blocking of TV viewing if the indicated content rating of the broadcast signal exceeds the specified content rating. As illustrated (and claimed), more than one rating can be associated with the specified finite time ranges.

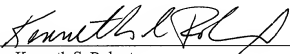
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Casement does not meet or suggest all of the limitations of claims 1 and 13 or similar limitations in independent Claims 19 and 25. Accordingly, claim 1-46 meet the requirements for patentability under 35 USC 102(e).

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully assert the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action on the merits of the claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned can be reached at (949) 567-6700.

Respectfully submitted,
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